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1 12. (Amended, showing changes) The filament assembly of claim [9] 10, wherein
2 said permanent magnet is cylindrically hollow.

1 41. (Amended, showing changes) A canal hearing device adapted for directly
2 contacting the tympanic membrane and imparting audible vibrations thereto, comprising:

3 (a) a floating vibrational filament assembly for contacting the tympanic membrane
4 at its medial end,

5 (b) a stationary vibration force element positioned in the ear canal at a distance
6 from the tympanic membrane and operably associated with said vibrational filament
7 assembly,

8 said vibrational filament assembly being responsive to dynamic forces imparted
9 thereon by said vibration force element for movement freely within an operable range in at
10 least one degree of [motion] freedom with respect to said vibration force element, thereby
11 allowing individual adjustment and positioning of said vibrational filament assembly for
12 contacting the tympanic membrane and imparting audible vibrations without exerting
13 essentially any static forces thereto.

1 82. (Amended, showing changes) A vibrational filament assembly constructed and
2 adapted to fit within the ear canal of an individual and for imparting audible vibrations onto
3 the tympanic membrane of said individual, said filament assembly comprising:

4 (a) a tympanic coupling element for contacting the tympanic membrane and
5 imparting audible vibrations thereto,

6 (b) a vibrational shaft element for coupling vibrations to said tympanic [contact]
7 coupling element,

8 said tympanic coupling element and said vibrational shaft element being connected via
9 an articulation joint comprising a ball joint therebetween for allowing individual orientation
10 of said tympanic coupling element with respect to said vibrational shaft element according to
11 an individual orientation of said tympanic membrane with respect to an individual ear canal.

1 83. (Amended, showing changes) A hearing device constructed and adapted to fit
2 and be worn within the ear canal of a human subject for imparting audible vibrations to the
3 tympanic membrane of the subject, comprising:

4 a microphone for receiving the incoming signals representative of audio signals and
5 converting them to electrical signals;

6 an amplifier for processing and amplifying the electrical signal output of the
7 microphone;

8 a vibration force element responsive to said amplified signals for conversion thereof to
9 dynamic forces representative of said incoming signals; and

10 a vibrational filament assembly dynamically coupled to said vibration force element
11 and responsive to said dynamic forces imparted on by said vibration force element,

12 said vibrational filament assembly being essentially free floating within an operable
13 range in at least one degree of [motion] freedom with respect to said vibration force element,
14 thereby allowing individual adjustment and positioning of said vibrational filament assembly

ATTACHMENT A

Clean Version of Amended Claims of Ser. No. 09/475,923 (ISM/012), filed 02/28/02:

A1
concl'd
Sub
C1
7. (Amended, clean version) The filament assembly of claim 1, wherein said
2 filament assembly is separable from said vibration force element for placement and
3 replacement of the filament assembly in the vibration force element.

A2
concl'd
Sub
C1
11. (Amended, clean version) The filament assembly of claim 10, wherein said
2 permanent magnet is rod shaped.

1 12. (Amended, clean version) The filament assembly of claim 10, wherein said
2 permanent magnet is cylindrically hollow.

A3
concl'd
Sub
B2
41. (Amended, clean version) A canal hearing device adapted for directly contacting
2 the tympanic membrane and imparting audible vibrations thereto, comprising:
3 (a) a floating vibrational filament assembly for contacting the tympanic membrane
4 at its medial end,
5 (b) a stationary vibration force element positioned in the ear canal at a distance
6 from the tympanic membrane and operably associated with said vibrational filament assembly,
7 said vibrational filament assembly being responsive to dynamic forces imparted
8 thereon by said vibration force element for movement freely within an operable range in at
9 least one degree of freedom with respect to said vibration force element, thereby allowing
10 individual adjustment and positioning of said vibrational filament assembly for contacting the
11 tympanic membrane and imparting audible vibrations without exerting essentially any static
12 forces thereto.

1 82. (Amended, clean version) A vibrational filament assembly constructed and
2 adapted to fit within the ear canal of an individual and for imparting audible vibrations onto
3 the tympanic membrane of said individual, said filament assembly comprising:
4 (a) a tympanic coupling element for contacting the tympanic membrane and
5 imparting audible vibrations thereto,
6 (b) a vibrational shaft element for coupling vibrations to said tympanic coupling
7 element,
8 said tympanic coupling element and said vibrational shaft element being connected via
9 an articulation joint comprising a ball joint therebetween for allowing individual orientation of
10 said tympanic coupling element with respect to said vibrational shaft element according to an
11 individual orientation of said tympanic membrane with respect to an individual ear canal.

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83. (Amended, clean version) A hearing device constructed and adapted to fit and be
2 worn within the ear canal of a human subject for imparting audible vibrations to the tympanic
3 membrane of the subject, comprising:
4 a microphone for receiving the incoming signals representative of audio signals and
5 converting them to electrical signals;
6 an amplifier for processing and amplifying the electrical signal output of the
7 microphone;
8 a vibration force element responsive to said amplified signals for conversion thereof to
9 dynamic forces representative of said incoming signals; and
10 a vibrational filament assembly dynamically coupled to said vibration force element
11 and responsive to said dynamic forces imparted on by said vibration force element,
12 said vibrational filament assembly being essentially free floating within an operable
13 range in at least one degree of freedom with respect to said vibration force element, thereby
14 allowing individual adjustment and positioning of said vibrational filament assembly for
15 contacting the tympanic membrane and imparting audible vibrations without exerting
16 essentially any static forces thereto.